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The book possesses practically every feature that will contribute to its usefulness: an introduction to the Park itself; a chapter on the organography of the plant for those who have not had a course in botany; simple but complete keys; plain concise descriptions with a minimum of technical terms; interesting notes on habitat, habit, distribution, etc.; 11 beautiful halftone plates in brown, and 174 instructive figures; a glossary and a complete index. This little manual of nearly 300 pages is significant in many ways. It indicates an increasing interest in technically correct science simply and clearly expressed. It emphasizes the fact that systematic botany should be developed for the *use* of the people, not to *impress* them with the futility of trying to fathom the mysteries of recent nomenclatural practices. It shows that the breeze is beginning to blow steadily from the ocean, littered with the wreckage of families, genera, and species, to the solid shores on which an *Astragalus* is an *Astragalus* and not a *Tium*; a *gentian* is a *gentian* and not an *Anthopogon*; and a *pine* is a *pine* and not an *apine*.

When a thing is so well done it seems almost ungenerous to mention matters which represent merely differences of opinion, but would it not have been well to have included the grasses, sedges, and rushes for the sake of completeness? Botanists would have valued this feature even if the descriptions had been very much curtailed. Attention may also be called to the seeming ultra-conservatism of the authors in the matters of the adoption of recent names for old, well known species. To a beginner, one technical name is as good as another, and no useful purpose is served by retaining a name that properly belongs in another range, even though that name has long been used in ours.

The publishers have done their work well. The binding is limp leather, the paper excellent in quality, and the pages are trimmed close, so that the little volume feels good in the hand and will no doubt find its way into the pockets of many of the visitors to the Yosemite Park.—AVEN NELSON.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Current taxonomic literature.—L. R. ABRAMS (*Muhlenbergia* **8**:26–44. 1912) gives a synoptical revision of the genus *Monardella*, as represented in southern California, and adds 4 new species, and 3 varieties.—O. AMES (*Torreya* **12**:11–13. 1912) has published a new *Habenaria* (*H. Brittonae*) from Cuba.—J. C. ARTHUR (*Mycologia* **4**:49–65. 1912) records the results of continued studies on the “Cultures of Uredineae in 1911.”—O. BECCARI (*Webbia* **3**:131–165. 1910) under the title “*Palmae australasiche nuove o poco note*” has published several new species of palms and proposes a new genus (*Pritchardioopsis*) of this family from New Caledonia.—A. BRAND (*Rep. Sp. Nov.* **10**:280, 281. 1912) characterizes a new genus (*Namation*) of the Scrophulariaceae based on the Mexican plant *Nama glandulosum* Peter. The same author (*ibid.* 281) proposes the name *Andropus carnosus* for the plant hitherto doubt-

fully referred to the genus *Conanthus*.—N. L. BRITTON (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **39**:1-14. 1912) under the title "Studies of West Indian plants IV" places on record important data and describes 20 new species of flowering plants.—The same author (Torreya **12**:30-32. 1912) adds a new species to the recently monographed genus *Hamelia*, namely *H. scabrida* from Jamaica.—N. L. BRITTON and J. N. ROSE (*ibid.* 13-16) record 7 hitherto undescribed species of cacti from Cuba.—E. CHIOVENDA (Ann. Bot. **10**:25-29. 1912) under the title "Intorno a due nuovi generi di piante appartenenti alla famiglia delle Malpighiaceae" proposes two genera, namely *Tetraspis* and *Eriocau-cantus*.—A. COGNIAUX (Rep. Sp. Nov. **10**:343, 344. 1912) describes a new species of *Epidendrum* (*E. Rojasii*) from Paraguay.—L. DIELS (Leafl. Phil. Bot. **4**:1161-1167. 1911) gives a synopsis of the Philippine Menispermaceae, recognizing 14 genera; the synopsis is based on a monograph of the group in the *Pflanzenreich* by the same author.—K. DOMIN (Rep. Sp. Nov. **10**:57-61, 117-120. 1911) describes several species of flowering plants from Australia and proposes a new genus (*Notochloe*) of the Gramineae.—A. D. E. ELMER (Leafl. Phil. Bot. **4**:1171-1474. 1911-1912) in continuation of his work on the Philippine flora has described upward of 150 new species of flowering plants.—A. ENGLER (Bot. Jahrb. **48**:224-336. 1912) in collaboration with several specialists has issued "Beiträge zur Flora von Afrika XL." About 120 species new to science are published, belonging mostly to the Solanaceae, Polygonaceae, and Umbelliferae. Four new genera of the Umbelliferae are proposed, namely *Afrosison*, *Marlothiella*, *Volkensiella*, and *Frommia*.—F. FEDDE (Rep. Sp. Nov. **10**:311-315, 364, 365, 379, 380, 417-419. 1912), has published new species and varieties of *Corydalis* from North America.—M. L. FERNALD and K. M. WIEGAND (Rhodora **14**:35, 36. 1912) record a new variety of *Juncus* (*J. balticus* var. *melanogenus*) from Quebec.—C. N. FORBES (Occ. Papers Bern. Pau. Bish. Mus. Ethl. and Nat. Hist. **5**:1-12. 1912) under the title "New Hawaiian plants III" has published 4 new species of flowering plants.—E. L. GREENE (Leafl. Bot. Obs. and Crit. **2**:165-228. 1912) has described about 100 new species of North American flowering plants mostly referred to *Apocynum* and *Erigeron*.—D. GRIFFITHS (Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. **22**:25-36. *pls.* 1-17. 1911) in a fourth article on *Opuntia* has described and illustrated 10 new species from southwestern United States and Mexico.—W. B. GROVE (Journ. Bot. **50**:9-18, 44-55. *pls.* 515, 516. 1912) in an article entitled "New or noteworthy Fungi, part IV" includes the description of a new genus (*Cryptostictella*) found on leaves of *Tilia europea* at Studley Castle, England.—The same author (*ibid.* 89-92) has proposed the generic name *Diplosphaerella*, to include the species which have 16 spores in the ascus; the genus is based on *Mycosphaerella polyspora* Johans.—E. HACKEL (Rep. Sp. Nov. **10**:165-174. 1911) under the title "Gramineae novae VIII" describes several new species of grasses including 9 from Mexico and South America.—E. HASSLER (*ibid.*, 344-348. 1912) has published new species and varieties in the Rutaceae, Simarubaceae, and Scrophulariaceae from Paraguay.

—A. A. HELLER (*Muhlenbergia* 7:125-132. 1912) describes and figures a new species of *Ivesia* (*I. halophila*) from the Ruby Mountains, Nevada; and (*ibid.* 8:21-24. *pl.* 4) records a new *Apocynum* (*A. cinereum*) from the same state.—G. HIERONYMUS (*Rep. Sp. Nov.* 10:41-53, 97-116. 1911) has published 19 new species of *Selaginella* from the Philippine Islands.—P. B. KENNEDY (*Muhlenbergia* 7:133-136. 1912) describes a new willow (*Salix caespitosa*) from Mt. Rose, Nevada.—F. D. KERN (*Torreya* 11:211-214. 1911) records 2 new species of *Uromyces* from the Central and Southern States.—F. KRÄNZLIN (*K. Sv. Vet. Akad. Handl.* 46: no. 10. 1-105. *pls.* 1-13. 1911) under the title "Beiträge zur Orchideenflora Südamerikas" has published 78 new species of orchids, mostly from Brazil. The descriptions are supplemented by illustrations bringing out the more salient floral characters.—G. KÜKENTHAL (*Leafl. Phil. Bot.* 4:1169-1170. 1911) records a new *Carex* (*C. palawanensis*) from the Philippine Islands.—H. LÉVEILLÉ (*Rep. Sp. Nov.* 10:431-444. 1912) has published several new species of flowering plants from China and the Sandwich Islands and includes a new genus (*Esquirolia*) of the Oleaceae from China.—I. M. LEWIS (*Mycologia* 4:66-71. *pls.* 58-61. 1912) describes and illustrates a new black knot disease (*Bagniesiella Diantherae*) found on *Dianthera americana* at Austin, Tex.—J. LUNELL (*Am. Mid. Nat.* 2:169-177, 185-188, 194, 195. 1912) describes new species and varieties in *Laciniaria*, *Toxicodendron*, and *Gutierrezia*.—T. H. MACBRIDE (*Mycologia* 4:84-86. *pl.* 62. 1912) describes and illustrates a new *Geaster* (*G. juniperinus*) from Iowa.—T. MAKINO (*Bot. Mag. Tokyo* 25:251-258. *pl.* 7. 1911) under the title of "Observations on the Flora of Japan" describes and illustrates a new genus (*Mitrastemon*) which represents a monotypic family (Mitrastemonaceae) of parasitic plants from the temperate regions of Japan, and regarded by the author as constituting an independent series (Mitrastemonales) most closely allied to the Aristolochiales.—U. MARTELLI (*Webbia* 3:5-35. 1910) presents a synoptical revision of the genus *Freycinetia* of the Philippine Islands, recognizing 35 species of which 9 are indicated as new.—W. R. MAXON (*Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* 39:23-28. 1912) records the results of a study of the genus *Phanerophlebia* and gives a key to the 7 recognized North American species.—W. MOESER (*Rep. Sp. Nov.* 10:310, 311. 1912) characterizes a new genus (*Pseudobotrys*) of the Icacinaceae from New Guinea.—W. A. MURRILL (*Mycologia* 4:72-83. 1912) in a fifth article on the "Agaricaceae of tropical North America" treats 13 genera and describes new species in *Mycena*, *Pluteolus*, *Conocybe*, *Naucoria*, *Cortinarius*, *Inocybe*, and *Hebeloma*. The same author (*ibid.* 91-100) gives a list of the Polyporaceae and Boletaceae collected on a recent tour of the Pacific Coast region; the article includes 8 new species of the former family and 4 of the latter.—J. A. NIEUWLAND (*Am. Mid. Nat.* 2:178-185. 1912) describes two new species and four varieties of flowering plants, and (*ibid.* 201-247) in an article entitled "Our amphibious Persicarias" discusses several of the aquatic or semiaquatic smartweeds and proposes 2 additional species in the group.—J. M. GREENMAN.